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ARMY CONCEPT TEAM IN VIETNAM
APO San Francisco 96243

ACTIV-LCD

30 December 1966

SUBJECT: Final Report - Tropical Combat Neckerchiefs (ACL-84/67)

TO: Commanding General
United States Army, Vietnam
ATTN: AVHGC
APO San Francisco 96307

1. REFERENCES

- a. Letter, AVCG, 31 December 1965, subject: Tropical Combat Uniform, with inclosure: Summary of Proceedings of United States Army, Vietnam...Tropical Combat Uniform Board.
- b. Letter, FOR DS SSS, 18 March 1966, subject: Tropical Combat Uniform.
- c. MACV Message 45400, 13 October 1966, subject: Tropical Combat Uniform.

2. PURPOSE

Determine the acceptability, suitability, and durability of experimental neckerchiefs for use in tropical combat environments.

3. BACKGROUND

The summary of the Proceedings of the United States Army, Vietnam Tropical Combat Uniform Board included the following statement: "It was agreed that a highly absorbent neckerchief approximately 36 x 36 inches is needed in the jungles. The Australians have this type gear in use and speak highly of it." In response to this stated requirement, the US Army Natick Laboratories supplied neckerchiefs for evaluation in RVN fabricated from cotton T-shirt material and dyed OG.

4. OBJECTIVES

a. Objective 1 - Suitability

- (1) Determine if the experimental neckerchief provides adequate protection against sun and insects.

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(2) Determine if the neckerchief is adequate as a sweat cloth to be used for the face, neck, hands and arms.

(3) Determine if the dimensions and material of construction are suitable.

b. Objective 2 - Durability

(1) Predict the lifetime of the experimental tropical combat neckerchief.

(2) Determine the effect of repeated laundering on the lifetime of the neckerchief.

c. Objective 3 - Acceptability

Determine troop acceptance of the experimental neckerchief.

5. DISCUSSION

a. The experimental neckerchief was fabricated from cotton T-shirt material, dyed OG, and knitted in a tubular, double ply configuration. The finished neckerchief was double ply and measured 18 x 24 inches.

b. The neckerchiefs were evaluated by the Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol of the 1st Infantry Division operating in the III Corps area of the Republic of Vietnam. The neckerchief was worn for a period of approximately 1½ to 2 months. The results of this evaluation are based upon the responses of 16 test participants who completed a questionnaire which employed qualitative, quantitative, and comparative techniques for measuring test results.

c. In every case, the evaluators reported that the experimental neckerchief was an acceptable item for troop issue in the Republic of Vietnam. In support of this position the responses indicated that the neckerchief was effective in providing protection against the sun in the day and insects at night while serving quite adequately as a sweat cloth when needed.

d. Seventy-five percent of the responses predicted a neckerchief lifetime of 6 months. None of the responses predicted a lifetime less than 3 months.

e. The neckerchief was laundered in all cases. During the course of the evaluation, the neckerchief was laundered approximately five times. The neckerchief was reported to launder well and the laundering properties compared favorably with cotton underwear.

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f. More than 80 percent of the responses indicated that the dimensions of the neckerchief were suitable. The negative responses suggested that the neckerchief be designed in a square 18 x 18 inch configuration.

g. In every case the material of construction was considered suitable. When asked "Would toweling or terry cloth be superior to the cotton as a neckerchief material?" the evaluators unanimously responded "No".

h. There were no significant recommended changes to the neckerchief design.

6. FINDINGS

a. The neckerchief provided adequate protection against sun and insects and functioned well as a sweat cloth for face and neck.

b. The neckerchief dimensions were suitable.

c. The neckerchief lifetime was predicted to be approximately 6 months.

d. Repeated laundering did not deleteriously affect the neckerchief.

e. Troops participating in the evaluation accepted without qualification the use of neckerchiefs.

7. CONCLUSIONS

a. The experimental Tropical Combat Neckerchief is a desirable item for issue to US Army troops operating in the Republic of Vietnam.

b. The neckerchief has adequate durability to justify issue in Vietnam.

c. The neckerchief effectively protects against sun and insects and functions satisfactorily as a sweat cloth.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the tropical combat neckerchief be procured for issue to combat, combat support, and combat service support

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troops operating in the Republic of Vietnam. Basis of issue would be four per man per year if the least predicted lifetime were no less than 3 months.

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